

# THE COMMONWEAL

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### CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
The Great Strike at Southampton .. .. .	297
At Southampton .. .. .	297
News from Nowhere; or, an Epoch of Rest (continued) ..	298
More "Fire and Slaughter" .. .. .	299
Trade-Unionist Tactics .. .. .	299
Reviews .. .. .	299
The Agricultural Labourer (continued) .. .. .	300
In the Argentine .. .. .	301
International Notes .. .. .	301
The Labour Struggle .. .. .	302
Socialism in London and the Provinces .. .. .	302
Correspondence .. .. .	303
Executive Announcements, Lecture Diary, and Notices of Meetings ..	303
Statement of Principles, New Publications, Advertisements, etc. ..	304

### THE GREAT STRIKE AT SOUTHAMPTON.

ONE lesson at least we have learnt from the Southampton Strike is that the workers have, if they choose to exercise it, the power of inspiring a wholesome terror in the craven hearts of their masters. To understand this clearly, let us hastily run over the most remarkable events of the strike. The strike breaks out; the people surround the docks and literally besiege them; trains are stopped to see if they contain blacklegs; no one is allowed to go out or in without giving a proper account of himself; blacklegs are conspicuous by their absence; the whole town is in the hands of the people. What do the middle-class authorities do? The Mayor, a most worthy man, resembling greatly the Mayor of the famous Town of Hamelin, or shall we say Mr. Justice Nupkins, is in a mighty flurry; he knows better, however, than to let loose his police upon the crowd with their bludgeons. He has an idea, a strangely sensible one for an amiable imbecile—that the police might possibly get hurt more than the crowd. So he telegraphs for troops; troops are sent; and by way of getting the crowd in a good humour, the Mayor, on the advice of the officer in command of the troops, orders the firemen to play upon it with a fire-engine; the people retaliate by throwing stones, of which several hit the soldiers; a lieutenant gets his nose broken with a stone; the troops, irritated in their turn, are ordered to charge upon the people with the bayonet; several men are seriously injured; in revenge, some of the crowd march round to the Mayor's place of business and smash his windows; more power to their elbows.

Well, this awful act of revolt throws the local swells into the most abject terror. The next day there are the most fearful rumours about; the mayor's house is to be sacked and pillaged; the London dockers are marching on Southampton, as the Paris women marched on Versailles. The mayor's house is guarded by troops; a few hundred more soldiers are ordered into the town; and two gunboats are sent for—possibly with a view of affording a chance of escaping by water to the mayor, should the insurrection prove too strong and the commune be proclaimed. So great is the general terror among the respectable classes that many of them take to their heels and run for their lives at sight of a dockers' procession. For these and other interesting facts see the reports of the *Daily News* correspondent. The terror is not confined to Southampton; it unfavourably affects the prices on the London Stock Exchange, and it has an even worse effect on the Paris Bourse. Please admire the easy way in which the capitalists are frightened out of their lives.

Supposing that the people had routed the police and soldiers—such things have happened—and instead of breaking the mayor's windows had burnt his house and hung him on a lamppost—our forefathers would have done that with less provocation; suppose an Anarchist revolt had really taken place and the dockers had taken possession of the docks and the factories, while the shipping and railways had been seized by the rest of the people, who at the same time had made a free distribution of tea, meat, bread, clothes, and groceries among the poor of the town; suppose even the insurrection had been crushed,—how much more should we have heard of "smashing unions" from the gentlemen of the middle classes? I believe they would even prefer the "tyranny" of the unions to a miniature social revolution, which

certainly would not stop at Southampton, but spread like a prairie fire through the length and breadth of the country.

But though the men showed they had the courage to face bayonets and cannon, yet, as our comrade Kitz has clearly shown, the leaders by their cowardly action, first by recommending the men to "obey the law," and next by the shameful action of the Executive in abandoning these brave dockers, did their utmost to crush down the spirit of revolt and play the game of the masters. It is true the leaders of the Dockers' Union may imagine they have not done this, but we should like to ask them if they do not think their surrender at Southampton will encourage Norwood and Co. to attack their new unions everywhere before many months are over?

In the Labour War that will follow, the masters will not only have the assistance of police and soldiers, but will doubtless take the advice of the Tories and *St. James's Gazette*, and hire a gang of Pinkerton assassins to murder men, women, and children. The capitalists are showing by their tactics that they mean to crush the Labour movement, even if they spill human blood like water to do it. The men must be prepared for a desperate fight; and if every man in the ranks of the dockers who is used to bearing arms had a good revolver in his possession, the hiring of Pinkertons by the capitalist classes would be a difficult job, and even bloodthirsty military officers who "don't hesitate to shoot," would perhaps be not quite so eager for massacre as they were at Southampton. J. D. NICOLL.

### AT SOUTHAMPTON.

Southampton presented a lively appearance upon my arrival. The Docks Railway Station was surrounded with police and soldiers. They were, however, exceedingly civil to passengers by train, and sir'd me as I needed their service to get through the cordons. Had they known my mission, doubtless their tone would have been different; but it was very nice of them however.

Oh that every town in England had a mayor like his worship of Southampton! the Revolution that we dream of and libate to would be hastened by leaps and bounds. Soldiers at every street corner, bayonet charges upon the slightest pretext and on no pretext at all—that is the way to familiarise the people with Law-'n'-order in its worst aspect. The officer in command of the Yorkshire Regiment, who did the dirty work of the frightened bourgeois of Southampton, is evidently a student of Colonel Knollys' advice as to the treatment of crowds, for he ordered the town fire-brigade to play upon the strikers. Everything, in short, was done to exasperate the people in order to afford a pretext for slaughtering them. One drunken officer stationed at the corner of a street in charge of a file of soldiers deliberately lurched amongst the civilians, hoping, no doubt, that they would retaliate and give this carpet soldier the chance of fulfilling his expressed wish to fire on what he elegantly termed the —.

I watched the crowd narrowly at all points, and must say that there was a certain stolid good humour about it, which under repeated provocation was rapidly becoming grim; and had our friends the enemy continued their exasperating tactics a little longer they might have found that, if water is a valuable element, fire is also of use in equalising odds; and certainly the strikers would not have lacked precept and example in its use.

The leaders, so precipitate to order the strike, speedily lost control over it. They showed a lamentable want of grasp of the issues involved. The companies, and in fact the capitalists generally, together with the reptile press of London, notably the *Times*, made no such mistake: the prompt and unsparring use of the military and naval forces, the significant use of Knollys' tactics against the strikers, and their fixed determination to ignore the union, shows that they, at least, were determined to make it a test fight in the labour war. The apologetic and pusillanimous tone of the leaders (*sic!*) encouraged them. It was my painful duty to have to listen to T. McCarthy. His speech was made up of "ifs" and "buts," and pitiful supplications to preserve order. If the strikers were without weapons, they certainly had canons enough (excuse the pun). As McCarthy stood up, he had canons to the left and to the right of him, for unctuous clerics in the persons of Rev. Messrs. Scannell, Wilberforce, and Leach beamed peace upon the crowd. When later on the final fiasco and defeat took

place, the last-named cleric appealed to the infuriated and betrayed strikers to accept their fate as the will of God. So that God, it appears, is a friend of the dock companies and views strikes with disfavour (please note, my unionist friends who are so fond of hobnobbing with sky-pilots).

On Tuesday, the men could have secured possession of the dock if properly led, for two of the dock-gates are, although high, merely planks battened together. But the leaders took the courage out of the men, and after a struggle that had lasted barely four days, McCarthy made the hideous blunder and practical confession of defeat by leaving an open-air meeting in company with a cleric as a deputation to the Dock Company "to see," as he feebly put it, "what they would do," and they having seen his hand would do nothing—not even allow him in.

During his absence on this bootless errand, I took occasion to address the men on Socialism. I got an immense reception, for a great number of the men had been unable to hear McCarthy's weak voice. But he returned whilst I was speaking with the doleful message of his failure, and fearing, I suppose, that I should alienate his followers, he mounted a seat and denounced me. I had desisted from speaking upon his return. I owe it to the impression I created that I was not subjected to personal violence through his action. Mr. McCarthy has mistaken his vocation; he would no doubt be able to marshal a small Sunday-school treat, and come out of the ordeal with flying colours; but as a Labour leader he is a woeful failure.

Tom Walsh made a better show; he denounced the tactical blunder that McCarthy made in going unsolicited to the Company, and showed his contempt for the parasitical reporters by telling them he liked them at a distance.

The Sailor's Union had come out on sympathy with the dockers, and for the recognition of their union. The subsequent collapse brought about by the action of McCarthy and Co., has placed the sailors in a difficult position. They are determined to have their union recognised, and as they are strong enough to boycott the port they are to be reckoned with.

There is a class of boy labourers here known as the scurfer boys; they are a hardy and courageous set. They were prominent in all the scimmages that took place, and they furnished nearly all the fun. They burnt handlights in the streets to fool the police and military, and were to the front when hard knocks were distributed. The union leaders, having got into a moral mood, denounced these frisky lads, although they too were out with the men strikers, and even went so far as to urge on the men to put the boys down with a strong hand. I confess that my admiration for these lads rose in proportion as they incurred the displeasure of the parson-loving leaders.

To summarise. Some £6,000 have been lost to the men in wages; several men are in prison; a great number have been stabbed or bludgeoned, and the point fought for has been lost. Of course, Labour will eventually have also to bear the cost of the movements of troops, police, etc., and the broken windows of the Mayor. I heard the epithets of "loafers" and "tramps" applied to those outside the New Unionism by the suddenly made Aristocrats of Labour. It is a fatal mistake. The propertied classes are preparing for a mighty struggle, in which the Southampton scenes are but an episode. The marching and countermarching, the proclamations in the name of our Sovereign Lady the Queen to keep the peace, etc., are but the pattering rain-spots before the storm. It is *not* the time to use harsh words in regard to paupers and tramps, who, after all, are what Society makes them; and least of all should the men in command of the forces of Labour join in the abuse of the residuum. If on no higher ground than policy, it is a tactical mistake to turn the unorganised mass into a reactionary force at the possible disposal of the enemy.

F. KITZ.

## NEWS FROM NOWHERE:

OR,

### AN EPOCH OF REST.

BEING SOME CHAPTERS FROM A UTOPIAN ROMANCE.

CHAP. XXVIII.—THE JOURNEY'S END.

ON we went. In spite of my new-born excitement about Ellen, and my gathering fear of where it would land me, I could not help taking abundant interest in the condition of the river and its banks; all the more as she never seemed weary of the changing picture, but looked at every yard of flowery bank and gurgling eddy with the same kind of affectionate interest which I myself once had so fully, as I used to think, and perhaps had not altogether lost even in this strangely changed society with all its wonders. Ellen seemed delighted with my pleasure at this, that, or the other piece of carefulness in dealing with the river: the nursing of pretty corners; the ingenuity in dealing with difficulties of water-engineering, so that the most obviously useful works looked beautiful and natural also. All this, I say, pleased me hugely, and she was pleased at my pleasure—but rather puzzled too.

"You seem astonished," she said, just after we had passed a mill<sup>1</sup> which spanned all the stream save the water-way for traffic, but which

was as beautiful in its way as a Gothic cathedral—"you seem astonished at this being so pleasant to look at."

"Yes," I said, "in a way I am; though I don't see why it shouldn't be."

"Ah!" she said, looking at me admiringly, yet with a lurking smile in her face, "you know all about the history of the past. Were they not always careful about this little stream which now adds so much pleasantness to the country-side? It would always be easy to manage this little river. Ah! I forgot, though," she said, as her eye caught mine, "in the days we are thinking of pleasure was wholly neglected in such matters. But how did they manage the river in the days that you—?" Lived in, she was going to say; but correcting herself, said—"in the days of which you have record?"

"They *mismanaged* it," quoth I. Up to the first half of the nineteenth century, when it was still more or less of a highway for the country people, some care was taken of the river and its banks; and though I don't suppose anyone troubled himself about its aspect, yet it was trim and beautiful. But when the railways—of which no doubt you have heard—came into power, they would not allow the people of the country to use either the natural or artificial waterways, of which latter there were a great many. I suppose when we get higher up we shall see one of these; a very important one, which one of these railways entirely closed to the public, so that they might force people to send their goods by their private road, and so tax them as heavily as they could."

Ellen laughed heartily. "Well," she said, "that is not stated clearly enough in our history-books, and it is worth knowing. But certainly the people of those days must have been a curiously lazy set. We are not either fidgety or quarrelsome now, but if anyone tried such a piece of folly on us, we should use the said waterways, whoever gainsaid us: surely that would be simple enough. However, I remember other cases of this stupidity: when I was on the Rhine two years ago, I remember they showed us ruins of old castles, which, according to what we heard, must have been made for pretty much the same purpose as the railways were. But I am interrupting your history of the river: pray go on."

"It is both short and stupid enough," said I. "The river having lost its practical or commercial value—that is, being of no use to make money of—"

She nodded. "I understand what that queer phrase means," said she. "Go on!"

"Well, it was utterly neglected, till at last it became a nuisance—"

"Yes," quoth Ellen, "I understand: like the railways and the robber knights. Yes?"

"So then they turned the makeshift business on to it, and handed it over to a body up in London, who from time to time, in order to show that they had something to do, did some damage here and there,—cut down trees, destroying the banks thereby; dredged the river (where it was not needed always), and threw the dredgings on the fields so as to spoil them; and so forth. But for the most part they practised 'masterly inactivity,' as it was then called—that is, they drew their salaries, and let things alone."

"Drew their salaries," she said. "I know that means that they were allowed to take an extra lot of other people's goods for doing nothing. And if that had been all, it really might have been worth while to let them do so, if you couldn't find any other way of keeping them quiet; but it seems to me that being so paid, they could not help doing something, and that something was bound to be mischief,—because," said she, kindling with sudden anger, "the whole business was founded on lies and false pretensions. I don't mean only these river-guardians, but all these master-people I have read of."

"Yes," said I, "how happy you are to have got out of the parsimony of oppression!"

"Why do you sigh?" she said, kindly and somewhat anxiously.

"You seem to think that it will not last?"

"It will last for you," quoth I.

"But why not for you?" said she. "Surely it is for all the world; and if your country is somewhat backward, it will come into line before long. "Or," she said, quickly, "are you thinking that you must soon go back again? I was going to propose that you should live with us where we are going. I feel quite old friends with you, and should be sorry to lose you." Then she smiled on me, and said: "Do you know, I begin to suspect you of wanting to nurse a sham sorrow, like the ridiculous characters in some of those queer old novels that I have come across now and then."

I really had almost begun to suspect it myself, but I refused to admit so much; so I sighed no more, but fell to giving my delightful companion what little pieces of history I knew about the river and its border-lands; and the time passed pleasantly enough; and between the two of us (she was a better sculler than I was, and seemed quite tireless) we kept up fairly well with Dick, hot as the afternoon was, and swallowed up the way at a great rate. At last we passed under another ancient bridge; and through meadows bordered at first with huge elm-trees mingled with sweet chestnut of younger but very elegant growth; and the meadows widened out so much that it seemed felt that the trees must now be on the bents only or about the houses, except for the growth of the willows on the immediate banks, so that the wide stretch of grass was little broken here. Dick got very much excited now, and often stood up in the boat to cry out to us that this was such and such a field, and so forth; and we caught fire at his enthusiasm for the hayfield and its harvest, and pulled our best.

At last, as we were passing through a reach of the river where on the side of the towing-path was a highish bank with a thick whispering

<sup>1</sup> I should have said that all along the Thames there were abundance of mills used for various purposes; none of which were in any degree unsightly, and many strikingly beautiful; and the gardens about them marvels of loveliness.

bed of reeds before it, and on the other side a higher bank, clothed with willows that dipped into the stream and crowned by ancient elm-trees, we saw bright figures coming along close to the bank, as if they were looking for something; as, indeed, they were, and we—that is, Dick and his company—were what they were looking for. Dick lay on his oars, and we followed his example. He gave a joyous shout to the people on the bank, which was echoed back from it in many voices, deep and sweetly shrill; for there were above a dozen persons, both men, women, and children. A tall handsome woman, with black wavy hair and deep-set grey eyes, came forward on the bank and waved her hand gracefully to us, and said:

"Dick, my friend, we have almost had to wait for you! What excuse have you to make for your slavish punctuality? Why didn't you take us by surprise, and come yesterday?"

"O," said Dick, with an almost imperceptible jerk of his head toward our boat, "we didn't want to come too quick up the water; there is so much to see for those who have not been up here before."

"True, true," said the stately lady, for stately is the word that must be used for her; "and we want them to get to know the wet way from the east thoroughly well, since they must often use it now. But come ashore at once, Dick, and you, dear neighbours; there is a break in the reeds and a good landing-place just round the corner. We can carry up your things, or send some of the lads after them."

"No, no," said Dick; "easier going by water, though it is but a step. Besides, I want to bring my friend here to the proper place. We will go on to the Ford; and you can talk to us from the bank as we paddle along."

He pulled his sculls through the water, and on we went, turning a sharp angle and going north a little. Presently we saw before us a bank of elm-trees, which told us of a house amidst them, though I looked in vain for the grey walls that I expected to see there. As we went, the folk on the bank talked indeed, mingling their kind voices with the cuckoo's song, the sweet strong whistle of the blackbirds, and the ceaseless note of the corn-crake as he crept through the long grass of the mowing-field; whence came waves of fragrance from the flowering clover amidst the ripe grass.

In a few minutes we had passed through a deep eddying pool into the sharp stream that ran from the ford, and beached our craft on a tiny strand of limestone-gravel, and stepped ashore into the arms of our up-river friends, our journey done.

I disentangled myself from the merry throng, and mounting on the cart road that ran along the river some feet above the water, I looked round about me. The river came down through a wide meadow on my left, which was grey now with the ripened seeding grasses; the gleaming water was lost presently by a turn of the bank, but over the meadow I could see the mingled gables of a building where I knew the lock must be, and which now seemed to combine a mill with it. A low wooded ridge bounded the river-plain to the south and south-east, whence we had come, and a few low houses lay about its feet and up its slope. I turned a little to my right, and through the hawthorn sprays and long shoots of the wild roses could see the flat country spreading out far away under the sun of the calm afternoon, till something that might be called hills with a look of sheep-pastures about them bounded it with a soft blue line. Before me, the elm-boughs still hid most of what houses there might be in this riverside dwelling of men; but to the right of the cart-road a few grey buildings of the simplest kind showed here and there.

There I stood in a dreamy mood, and rubbed my eyes as if I were not wholly awake, and half expected to see the gay-clad throng of beautiful men and women change to two or three spindle-legged back-bowed men and haggard, hollow-eyed, ill-favoured women, who once wore down the soil of this land with their heavy hopeless feet, from day to day and season to season and year to year. But no change came as yet, and my heart swelled with joy as I thought of all the beautiful grey villages, from the river to the plain and the plain to the uplands, which I could picture to myself so well, all peopled now with this happy and lovely folk, who had cast away riches and attained to wealth.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

TO BE CONTINUED.]

(This Story began in No. 209, January 11, 1890. A few sets of Back Numbers can still be had.)

More "Fire and Slaughter."

The following paragraphs, clipped from the *Star* in one day (Tuesday, September 9), will perhaps persuade some of our "union-smashers" that there is something in the epidemic of incendiarism of which I spoke a week or two ago:

"Francis William Hulley, 21, a farm-labourer, was yesterday apprehended at Draylson on the charge of setting fire to four stacks of hay, and attempting to murder Amelia Bonsall, a farmer's daughter at Macclesfield."

"Another outbreak of fire, the second within a week, took place last evening at Beckingham Hall, near Maldon. Two large barns with their contents and four cattle-sheds were destroyed."

"When a charwoman named Grant was lighting a fire in a house at Deal to-day an explosion occurred, seriously injuring her face and arm and burning her hair. A tin containing 1½lb of gunpowder, used for clearing the furnace flue, had been placed in the stove and covered with loose paper."

There is a dangerous spirit abroad, and our Norwoods, Raikes, Liveseys had better pause in their exploits. These deeds prove that there are plenty of people about whom a little more tyranny would soon goad into "outrage."

D. N.

TRADE UNIONIST TACTICS.

HAVING spent a week as a listener to the proceedings of the Liverpool Trades' Congress, I may perhaps report briefly thereon. Leaving to others any comment on the reactionary and pettifoggery nature of much of the business done, I desire to make clear to readers of the *Commonweal* a few of the playful ways of the aristocracy of labour. First, their slavish adherence to red-tape was worthy of a vestry. A Standing Orders Committee is elected before which all resolutions must pass, and when any resolution distasteful to the "old gang" was proposed, they managed to have it referred to the committee to take its chance in the ballot. Thus a resolution that the delegates of the insurance agents should be admitted was adroitly delayed by this dodge until the last day of the Congress, when, of course, its effect was nil. On every possible pretext men with the mark of the vestry on their brow rose to "points of order," and many resolutions were thus shelved. Then the rampant intolerance of the Congress merits notice. No representative of a minority had any chance of being heard, and this applies not only to the Socialists present, but to any representative of an unpopular cause. When a Socialist dared to rise there was an immediate howl, and many resolutions which some of them desired to oppose were summarily passed without a word of opposition being audible. For snobbery no gathering of grocers could have beaten this democratic assembly. While Macdonald (London) was shouted down, as described already in the *Commonweal*, the Congress actually cheered Fenwick, M.P., when he complained that Macdonald had not explained his resolution! On the other hand, Burns (who is influential and determined) was allowed in quiet to second the very resolution which Macdonald had not been allowed to propose. Money is as much a god here as on the Stock Exchange, and it was sickening to hear these curs laugh derisively when it was stated that John Williams represented the firewood-cutters—much too plebeian a body for these sucking capitalists. The voting papers for the election of the committee bore opposite to each name the amount which its owner's society had subscribed to the funds—as though this was any evidence of a man's fitness for office. When the Lairds of Birkenhead were accused of being "sweaters," delegates positively fought for an opportunity of whitewashing that firm, while the so-called labour members were cheered to the echo over their miserable defence to the charge of being political hacks. In fact, while the delegates found Burns, Tillett, and Mann too strong to be entirely "burked," they took it out of Quelch, Williams, and the rest of the Socialists to make things straight. "Verily there is no god but Gladstone, and Broadhurst is his prophet!"

Reviews.

'POLITICAL ECONOMY OF SOCIALISM.' By John Carruthers. 1d. Hammersmith Branch S.L., Kelmscott House, Hammersmith.

Comrade Carruthers has written a tract upon what used to be once called the Dismal Science, which, strange to say, is not dismal at all, but is both bright and interesting. We know how the name of "political economy" frightens a good many people, and we do not wonder at it; but even the ordinary reader can get through comrade Carruthers' little pamphlet, and after all some knowledge of political economy—it need not be much—is necessary to every Socialist. With regard to the pamphlet, we think Carruthers' use of the words "purchase and sale" is unfortunate. "Purchase and sale," in the ordinary public mind, is associated with profit-making, and I am sure the author does not want the British shopkeeper to understand that he is going to make a profit under Socialism. We admit that possibly in the transition period a paper currency may be needed, but it will simply be used as a measure of value, so that each community could exchange its products for others of equal value. We think with Carruthers that perfect morality and honesty will not be attained directly after the Revolution, but that it may take some considerable time to free ourselves from the vices engendered by the present system. We recommend all friends interested in that great question of what the future society will be like to read Carruthers' pamphlet. Although they may not agree with all his conclusions, yet it will give them some idea of how a Socialist society might manage the production, distribution, and exchange of commodities.

'OUR SOCIAL SYSTEM; and How it Affects those who Work for their Living.' By David Andrade. Published by David Andrade, Sydney Road, North Brunswick, Melbourne.

A most damaging criticism of our present society from the Individualist-Anarchist standpoint. The following figures, showing how the Australian worker is robbed by his rulers the capitalist and landlord, are worth quoting:

HOW THE AUSTRALIAN LABOURERS SPEND THEIR ANNUAL EARNINGS.

Taxes	£15,000,000
Rent, at 10 per cent. on estates value (£190,000,000)	19,000,000
Interest, over 12 per cent.	10,000,000
Profits, at 75 per cent. on merchantable commodities	67,000,000
Remuneration to labour	22,000,000
	£133,000,000

The moral of the pamphlet is the English worker is, "Don't go to Australia," for you will find that the labourer is no better off than he is in England. Nothing but the destruction of capitalistic monopoly can ever free the workers of the world from over-work, robbery, and starvation.

Our Spanish contemporary *La Anarquia* has an enlarged cartoon upon the lines of the one published by the S.L., entitled "When will he get there?" In the Spanish copy the characters are attired in native costume, and a priest is added to those opposing the progress of the Labourer towards the fruits of his toil. The picture has an effective appearance.

F. K.



OFFICES: 24 GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON, W.C.

HAVE YOU NOT HEARD HOW IT HAS GONE WITH MANY A CAUSE BEFORE NOW: FIRST, FEW MEN HEED IT; NEXT, MOST MEN CONTEMN IT; LASTLY, ALL MEN ACCEPT IT—AND THE CAUSE IS WON

The COMMONWEAL is the official organ of the Socialist League; but, unless definitely so announced by the Editors, no article is to be taken as expressing in more than a general way the views of the League as a body. In accordance with the Manifesto and Statement of Principles of the League, the COMMONWEAL is an exponent of International Revolutionary Socialism. On minor differences of opinion the widest freedom of discussion is maintained. As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to their position in the paper.

Articles and letters dealing with any phase of the social problem are invited and will meet with earnest consideration. They must be written on one side of the paper only, and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication. MSS. can only be returned if a stamped directed envelope accompanies them.

Advertisements can only be inserted if unobjectionable in all particulars. Scale of charges and special quotations may be obtained from the Manager.

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Remittances from abroad must be made by International Money Order.

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WILL Branch Secretaries please write Reports and Orders for Literature on separate pieces of paper.

TO CONTRIBUTORS—Workmen could help us greatly by sending in accounts of capitalist tyranny and sweating in London and the provinces. We want the names of the sweaters. Those who write must send us their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. We shall not fear to publish the truth.—EDS.

#### Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday September 17.

<b>ENGLAND</b> Belfast Weekly Star Die Autonomie Justice Labour Tribune Manchester—Umpire People's Press Railway Review Sozial Demokrat Seafaring Worker's Friend	<b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b> Sydney—Bulletin Truth	<b>QUEENSLAND</b> Brisbane—Boomerang Brisbane—Worker	<b>VICTORIA</b> Melbourne—Bull-Ant Herald	<b>INDIA</b> Bankipore—Bohar Herald	<b>UNITED STATES</b> New York—Freiheit New York—Der Sozialist Twentieth Century Volkszeitung Bakers' Journal Workmen's Advocate	<b>New York—Truthseeker</b> Puck Phrenological Journal, etc. Boston—Woman's Journal Boston—Liberty Buffalo—Arbeiter-Zeitung Chicago—Rights of Labour Detroit—Der Arme Teufel Philadelph.—Knights of Labour Paterson Labour Standard St Louis—Altruist Anarchist St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung S.F.—Coast Seamen's Journal Valley Falls (Kan.)—Lucifer Cal.—Kaweah Commonweal	<b>FRANCE</b> Paris—Bourse du Travail Le Parti ouvrier Le Proletariat Charleville—L'Emancipation Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur Rouen—Le Salariat	<b>HOLLAND</b> Hague—Recht voor Allen	<b>BELGIUM</b> Antwerp—De Werker Ghent—Vooruit	<b>SWITZERLAND</b> Arbeiterstimme	<b>ITALY</b> Milan—Il Fascio Operaio Palermo—Avanti	<b>SPAIN</b> Madrid—El Socialista Barcelona—El Productor Madrid—La Anarquía	<b>GERMANY</b> Berlin—Volks Tribune Halberstadt, Sonntags-Zeitung	<b>AUSTRIA</b> Vienna—Arbeiter-Zeitung Brunn—Volksfreund Reichenberg—Freigeist Trieste—Confeder. Operaia	<b>HUNGARY</b> Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik	<b>DENMARK</b> Copenhagen—Arbejderen	<b>SWEDEN</b> Stockholm, Social-Demokraten Malmo—Arbetet Proletaren	<b>CAPE COLONY</b> Cape Town—Argus	<b>ARGENTINE REPUBLIC</b> Buenos Ayres—Vorwarts
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## THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURER.

(Continued from p. 290.)

THESE farms are singular in being situate in a place containing nothing but agriculture of the decidedly extensive sort. No factories or mines are near enough to influence the price of wages. The men leave for Yorkshire, London, or the army, only when compelled by actual necessity to do so.

In one other respect, too, the three farms enjoy a peculiarity. They are blessed by the total absence of any sub-manager or person who has to make his own account by petty harrassing of the actual workers. There is no man in either of the villages who is trying to wriggle himself out of his position by climbing up the backs of those about him. It may be very gloomy for individual men to feel that they cannot look forward to any amelioration of a life of monotonous work, but it has its better side in the circumstance that life is at least free from the prying of a downright "prig," the person who in many villages thinks he can climb out of the slough by starting pig-dealing and developing into a cattle dealer, and ultimately into a full-blown tyrant. That is the person who is a danger to the progress of humanity.

This is the state of the agricultural districts as they now are, and appear likely to remain. It has another side—the supply of workers to the towns. The young people cannot stay in the villages if they would. Even if they wished to remain sleeping in the small room with their father and mother, the introduction of reaping machines, hoeing machines, and the rest, which are considered to be a necessity of extensive agriculture, compels them to seek a livelihood in a centre of greater activity, where human life is worn out much more quickly. There is no present prospect of the establishment of workshops at such villages as Newnham and Bygrave. Neither is there any advance being made towards a higher state of cultivation. The tendency is rather to put land to permanent pasture, although it is capable of growing a higher class of plant than has hitherto been cultivated. The system under which land is held restricts the spread of knowledge into the ranks of those who could and would use it. Our agricultural worker does not know the extent to which margarine is eaten. He is quite able and ready to cultivate carrots, cabbage, and a variety of plants, which would assist in feeding cattle and in producing good butter, and would at the same time free the land from weeds far more effectually than the four-course rotation of rough crops, which the "landlord" insists shall be grown, to the exclusion of plants which he, poor thing, *thinks* might exhaust "his" land. In many instances the farmer gets free from vexatious stipulations as to cropping, but he remains attached more or less to the old rotation of simple crops which require the least attention, and which can be gathered and thrashed by machinery.

When we talk of municipalising the land, and playing hey-day with landlords, agents, bailiffs, and all their paraphernalia, we ought not to forget that it will be a work of some years of patient study and hard manual exertion to bring the soil up to such a pitch of cultivation and fertility, that it could bear what is wanted. The "organisation" of the home food supply is in a very deranged state. The "classes" certainly have their cattle shows and various displays, but they are of no practical use. It is the village workman who needs to be permitted to use his wits upon something more than the eighth of an acre of "allotment," grudgingly given at an exorbitant rent which he is too poor to pay.

The declared value of food imported into this much disunited country is a hundred millions annually, while millions of acres are abandoned to grass which does not grow, and millions of other acres are cultivated in a way that shows the extent to which the "system" has broken down.

Agriculture is the industry first organised by a new colony; its decay is the sure sign of the decay of civilisation.

The difficulty in the agricultural labourer's way is his apparent incapacity to understand that anything can come to him otherwise than through his master, and then in the shape of wages. His whole world is his little parish, sometimes his master's farm. He would be unhappy if away from the farm more than a day; it would tire him more to walk about London four hours than to hoe turnips for ten hours. He is capable of feeling that one and eightpence a-day is a miserable wage for him to receive, but he is also puzzled to know how any more is to be given him "while prices are so low," as the farmers tell him. These gentry will sometimes condescend to jabber a sort of "account" of the working of a given piece of corn, telling the details of expense and of produce, always producing a *loss* of a shilling or a pound per acre per annum. The workman does not get beyond this mode of assessment, and so remains mystified. I have seen groups of them mystified, dazed, silent, in the streets at Biggleswade, Stotford, and Ashwell in winter, when there is no particular field work that *must* be done. How they get through a long winter is the greatest wonder of all. The "casuals" often do not get more than three days work a week, and then at 1s. 8d. a-day.

The winter that tries them most is that which follows a hot summer, and for two reasons. A hot summer means an early harvest with short straw. The smaller bulk of straw is got through the thrasher much more quickly than bulky straw, such as grows in a dull summer; consequently work runs short soon after the Christmas which follows a hot summer. But the farmer, landlord, and parson do not trouble about short and long straw and its effects on the life and death of the workers—they have to do with the CORN.

Again, a hot summer is unfavourable to the growth of turnips, consequently there are less to take up and shelter from frost while the sheep-fold slowly advances. This is another dead loss to the worker, for which the farmer cares not two straws. Whatever he requires to replace turnips he can easily get in the shape of foreign barley, oats, or cotton-seed cake and linseed cake, which the workers of other countries have to supply to the British farmer by their own wretched slavery. With Mr. John Bull it is "Heads I win, Tails you lose!" Hot summer—heavy corn; light expenses; cheap imports. Dull summer—heavy turnips; *no* imports.

This is putting aside losses from floods and special causes, which are made a great deal of when they happen. But the view I try to put before these mystified workers waiting in the January slush is this: You and your comrades have done work in this village upon 4,000 acres, which has caused the forces of Nature to make a return of £20,000 value of one kind or other—the low average of £5 an acre—can any of you show me where half of that produce has gone? You and your comrades of all sorts have *not* had half in wages. But the Landlords *have* had a pound an acre, and the Church has had over a £1,000 in all, the Government has had its taxes, and your nine neighbours, whom you call master farmer, they have—well!—they have lived! and lived in some style. You cannot put it much under £4 a

week for each of the nine. Why should you not be standing in this horrid cold slush in the street here in Ashwell, near the extreme north of north Hertfordshire in 1890?

It would be drier and warmer in the ale-house, but these men have not the wherewith for a pint of "cold fourpenny." For this they are dubbed lazy fellows who will not work. How can they work under the system? The landlord has got his rent, the farmer has got a "living" by his system of four-course cropping—the only system he knows or cares to know, since it gives him an easy existence. It is nothing to him that his "system" has left a few casuals out in the cold. But is not this carelessness on your part a little dangerous, gentlemen? Has not similar recklessness and oppression sometimes produced very alarming phenomena among the downtrodden wretched slaves of similar systems, when driven by hunger and desperation into riot and rebellion? Did you ever hear of the *Jacquerie* in France in the last century, my dear friends? Did you ever hear of agricultural riots, blazing ricks, and smashed machinery in England? If you have, and can read the signs of the times, you would not drive your labourers to despair by grinding them down into shameful misery and horrible starvation. Even the worm will turn, and the overlaid ass revolt at last!

C. WALKDEN.

(To be concluded).

## IN THE ARGENTINE.

OUR comrade J. Craghe, now in Buenos Ayres, sends us the following vivid account of the recent Political Revolution in the Argentine. After recounting the attempts to found an Anarchist paper in Italian, French, and Spanish, he says:

Comrades,—As I write the city of Buenos Ayres is *en fête*. The whole place is covered with flags, and crackers and rockets are blazing away in all directions. The reason is that we have just had a very pretty political revolution carried out, which I shall now tell you about. The party in power for the last four years had steadily neglected everything but the most barefaced filling of their own pockets, even the bourgeoisie could not stand it, particularly as a commercial crisis came to make things unsupportable, and so the party in opposition gained over a large part of the army (about half), and on Saturday morning last the troops took possession of the artillery barracks and arsenal, which is situated in one of the squares in the centre of the city. They were there joined by large numbers of the citizens, who were immediately armed, as there was abundance of arms and ammunition in the arsenal. They entrenched themselves in the square, and armed citizens stationed themselves on the roofs of the houses all round. The government then with the troops at their disposal took post on the edge of the town, and three thousand police of the city armed with rifles in anticipation of the movement joined them. There was some desultory fighting during the day, and you will be sorry to hear that policemen were shot down in all parts of the city as they went to join their comrades.

On Sunday, we were aroused at six in the morning by the most furious fusillade of small arms, mitrailleuses, and Krupp guns, which continued without the least intermission for two hours. The police (who are old soldiers by the way) had with the troops of the line made a desperate attack on the position of the revolutionists, but were repulsed after two hours hard fighting. The police suffered awfully. During all that day there was much fighting in different parts of the city, and both parties continued to strengthen themselves. In the evening an armistice was agreed to until ten the next morning. Next day the whole fleet declared for the revolution, or was taken possession of, and began to bombard the position of the government, and the government house and the private residence of President Juarez. A shell fell in a house about 600 yards from this, and killed a woman and child and wounded many others. Several other cases of this kind occurred.

On Monday evening there was another furious attack made by the forces of the government, which, after twenty minutes hard fighting was again repulsed. Everybody was delighted, for the whole city sympathised with the movement. When, on Tuesday—things having been quiet in the morning and forenoon—in the evening, we were all surprised by the news that all was over, and that the revolutionary leaders had submitted to the government on the condition that no one was to be punished. They said the reason was that they had not enough ammunition to continue the struggle. No one believed this, and the young men in great part refused to give up their arms, but disbanded and rushed about firing and shouting; some even committed suicide, saying they were sold.

However, the leaders of the revolution knew what they were doing. They had gone far enough, and did not wish to go farther. Many of them were within the government party itself, and after all was quieted down the ministers resigned. The president found it useless to try to form a cabinet, no one would come to him; the clamour for his resignation became too loud to be unheard. Another outbreak was expected on the part of the army, and so the members of the Congress at last, who had up to this time said "Amen!" to all the president's paternosters, sent him a written demand to resign, which he did, and the vice-president, Pelligrini (who by the way is nephew to the late John Bright) became president. He is very much liked by all parties, and he has already formed an administration which gives confidence. Juarez resigned the day before yesterday, and since then there have been continual rejoicings.

We had a very lively time I can tell you while the affair lasted. Bullets were flying about in all directions, and the number of persons killed and wounded, who found themselves in the streets from mere curiosity, was very great indeed. One of our comrades got a grape-shot through his arm and into the flesh of his ribs, where it lodged; I am still attending him and several others. I had a narrow squeak myself one day, as a bullet passed close to my face and struck the wall near me. It nearly happened to me as to one poor citizen who was standing on the balcony at one of the windows of his house, when a bullet carried away both his eyes and his nose.

We Anarchists were in great hopes that the fighting would last for about fifteen days, and if it had the city would certainly have been sacked. Some thirty of us met and consulted what might be done in order to get funds for the Revolution (our Revolution), but the next day all was over.—With fraternal greetings to all comrades,  
J. CRAEGHE.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

### FRANCE.

The men employed in the dye-works of Reims earn 2½d. an hour and work twelve, fourteen, and sixteen hours a-day, without any meal-time. Except a few Socialists, the mass of the workers are so crushed that they only ask to work longer, in order to get more money to drink on Sunday, and recommence again their life of slavery on Monday. The peasants of the country about Reims, on the contrary, seem to become every day more rebellious, and promise to be useful to the cause of humanity.

Comrades Cabot and Vinchon (Paris), who had already been condemned to two years' imprisonment and £20 fine under the accusation of having distributed proclamations to the soldiers on the 1st of May, having had recourse to the Court of Appaal, were re-tried the other day. They energetically pleaded for their ideas and explained the Anarchist theories, confounding the public accuser. The jury found Cabot guilty, and condemned him to three months' imprisonment and £2 fine. Vinchon has been acquitted.

The solidarity between the workers has defeated the masters, and so the victory of the parquet-makers has disorganised the trust of the master carpenters and parquet-makers. The masters who had not been damaged by the strike protested against those who yielded to the demands of the workers, and withdrew from the trust.

The glass and crystal cutters of Charleville have struck work. The masters try by all means to get foreign workers, but as until at present they have not succeeded, the workers hope that the international solidarity of the working men will be successful once more.

The tobacco-workers of the whole of France have organised against their powerful master, the Government.

The French are forced to pay each year fifty million pounds for interest of the public debt, so that every Frenchman is bound to pay from his birth £1 5s. to feed a handful of parasites. When will they make a bonfire of these stock-books?

### ITALY.

At Milan, the 1st September, a great meeting of engineers was held. After a lively discussion the following conclusion has been voted: "The engineers and allied trades who have met to deliberate about the present crisis which has disorganised our industry are convinced that only through a strong organisation shall we be able to reclaim the machines, the ground, and the tools as a property to the workers, and put an end to our misery." Considering that every man has a right to earn his livelihood, they repel alms as a cause of demoralisation and humiliation. They protest against the foolish waste by the Government of the money of the tax-payers, throwing it in wrong speculations, leaving the workers, who are the only producers of wealth, to lie in starvation and in want. They intend to ask the Government to promptly provide the unemployed with work, and propose if in a fortnight the Government and proprietors won't have put an end to such a state of things, that they will be ready to sacrifice their lives rather than die of starvation.

From Naples the constitution of several Anarchist groups is announced. A new Anarchist paper, *Il Grido del Popolo*, will soon appear in that town.

In several towns of Italy the workers have been occupying themselves for some time with an important agitation for next 1st of May, which they hope will become historical. Most likely this question will be treated also in future congresses.

The trials and judgments for the riots of the 1st of May are still going on, and at Turin and Leghorn several comrades have been condemned to one, two, and three years' imprisonment.

Several comrades of La Spezia have been one year and a half in prison under the charge of having prepared explosive material and conspired against the safety of the State. A public trial has taken place twice already, but the judges declared themselves incompetent, and remanded them to another court.

### SPAIN.

The 14th August the Spanish comrades missed a good friend, Rafael Farga Pelicer, one of the founders of the International in Spain, and one of the most intelligent, energetic, and influential propagandists of Socialism. A good father to his family and a good friend to his comrades, he was devoted to the cause of mankind. Although impotent because of an infirmity, he was loved not only by all comrades, but by the whole working class of Barcelona and Catalogna. His death will leave a great void in the hearts of all who had the opportunity of knowing him.

At Madrid there has appeared a new Anarchist organ, the *Anarquia*. Long life to our comrades' paper.

The locksmiths of Barcelona have struck work.

The workers of Manresa imprisoned for striking have been discharged.

M.

### More Testimony.

We take the following from the *Echo* of September 4th:

"There is untold tragedy in the simple contrast of the death-rate in the New Town of Edinburgh with that of the Old Town. Of every thousand of the comfortable classes 10·27 die; of every thousand of the poor 21·16 die. Broadly stated, this means that for one case of child mortality in a good street, at least two occur in the slums, and that to be born to poverty is to receive a sentence of death at middle-age."

And yet some people complain of our "violent" language. When we remember that everywhere the poor are slowly murdered by the present system before they have lived out half their lives, I say we are not "violent" enough, and that any means are justifiable against a system of society under which 27 people have been starved to death during the last year in the richest city of the world. Scores are also horribly murdered every day by continued under-feeding. Death to the commercial system! The best means to use against are those which will the quickest end it.

"COMMONWEAL" BRANCH S.L.—A Course of Lectures and Concert and Ball (under the management of the above Branch) for the benefit of the *Commonweal* is in active preparation. Full particulars of same will be announced next week. There will be some initial expenses in connection therewith, and Branch comrades and friends are asked to help in this direction. All donations will be gladly acknowledged in *Commonweal* by WM. BLUNDELL, Branch Secretary, 24 Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

### Strike at Barratt's Confectionery Works.

Three hundred and fifty girls and boys have been out on strike for the last few days at Barratt's Confectionery Works at Wood Green. They complain of the atrocious sweating and also the system of fines, which are imposed upon the slightest pretext, and are especially hard upon the girls, who only earn the miserable wages of some 6s. or 8s. a-week, and have even these considerably reduced by the "ingenious" fine system. How the system works is clearly shown by the following letter handed in by a boy who had worked in the firm to a *Star* reporter. It runs as follows:

"SIR,—Since I have worked at Barratt's I have (with Care) lost so much as 1s. a-week. On Monday I was 1 minute late Fined 3d. Tuesday 4 minutes 3d. Wednesday 10 minutes late 3d. Thursday 20 minutes late 4½. and the same week I was fined 3d. for aming a Turnover, making an amount of 1s. 4½d. out of 6s. per week. Sir I know a girl who has lost so much as £3 in one Year for being late only. Sir, I have seen Boys come to work with only two slices of Bread and Butter for their Dinner Meal. I have been very Pleased to get 1d. fish myself. Many a morning I have Lost 3d. and worked till 10 the same night to make it up I know Boys who to make what they call a good week has worked from 6 in the morning till 10 at night and came home half Dead. Sir I would like to see you win the 8 hours won't the boys think they had a easy time of it. Sir try and get them all out Barratts won't give in until they all come out. I pity the Girls who is in lodgings. Sir that is all I have to say just now. Excuse the riting."

The strikers are fighting gallantly. They demand the abolition of the fines and also ask for a reduction of hours. The hours at present are from eight to eight, and till three on Saturday. The workers demand that they shall be reduced in future to eight till six, and one on Saturday; all work done out of these hours to be paid for at the rate of time and a half. Subscriptions are urgently needed, and should be sent to the Strike Committee, Star Coffee House, Wood Green.

### Strike of Hair and Fibre Workers.

A strike has taken place among the horse-hair workers at Messrs. Grey and Unsworth's and Messrs. McDonough's, Manchester, owing to the employment of non-union men. Over £100 has been received from London and Sheffield, and the smaller unions are forwarding donations. A meeting will be convened in London to consider the advisability of forming a co-operative factory at Manchester for the employment of the men on strike. The London secretary states he can procure the services of skilful buyers, and can command orders far into next year. This is considered an important suggestion, as it will be the first step towards getting the Manchester trade into the hands of the workers themselves, and will open employment for workers of other districts who may require it.

### Mr. Threfall on the Coming Winter.

Mr. Threfall, one of the most intelligent of the old trade unionists, has a thoughtful article on the Old and New Trades Unionism in the *Bristol Evening News* of Friday, September 12. He appears to share our views as to next winter being a very "rough" one. He says:

"A Maidstone correspondent sends me a very gloomy account as to the prospects of labour in the southern counties. Farmers have in many cases given up the struggle in despair, and thrown their farms up; and their labourers, having nothing to look forward to, are flocking into the metropolis and other large centres in the south. In addition to this, the mould has assailed the hops, and consequently fewer people are this year employed in hop-picking than for many years past. These facts, taken in connection with the potato famine in Ireland, and the inevitable invasion of agricultural labourers into our populous centres, certainly do not forecast a very bright winter. With plenty of surplus labour to work with, we may expect employers endeavouring to reduce wages, and this will undoubtedly lead to terrible struggles."

He points out also that a defeat at Southampton would speedily lead to a terrible strike at the London docks. The "defeat" has now occurred, and it is evident that the New Trade-unionism will soon be fighting desperately for its very existence.

### Glorious War.

What, speaking in quite unofficial language, is the net-purport and upshot of war? To my own knowledge, for example, there dwell and toil, in the British village of Dumdrudge, usually some five hundred souls. From these, by certain "Natural Enemies" of the French, there are successively selected, during the French war, say thirty able-bodied men: Dumdrudge, at her own expense, has suckled and nursed them: she has, not without difficulty and sorrow, fed them up to manhood, and even trained them to crafts, so that one can weave, another build, another hammer, and the weakest can stand under thirty stone avoirdupois. Nevertheless, amid much weeping and swearing, they are selected; all dressed in red; and shipped away, at the public charges, some two thousand miles, or say only to the south of Spain; and fed there till wanted. And now to that same spot, in the south of Spain, are thirty similar French artisans, from a French Dumdrudge, in like manner wending: till at length, after infinite effort, the two parties come into actual juxtaposition; and Thirty stands fronting Thirty, each with a gun in his hand. Straightway the word "Fire!" is given: and they blow the souls out of one another; and in place of sixty brisk useful craftsmen, the world has sixty dead carcasses, which it must bury, and anew shed tears for. Had these men any quarrel? Busy as the Devil is, not the smallest! They lived far enough apart; were the entirest strangers; nay, in so wide a Universe, there was even, unconsciously, by Commerce, some mutual helpfulness between them. How then? Simpleton! their Governors had fallen out; and, instead of shooting one another, had the cunning to make these poor blockheads shoot.—Alas, so it is in Deutschland, and hitherto in all other lands; still as of old, "what devilry soever Kings do, the Greeks must pay the piper!"—*Carlyle: Sartor Resartus.*

LEEDS.—The "Chicago Martyrs" annual meeting will be kept up in Leeds on Monday November 10, when comrades Bingham, Carpenter, Reynolds, Samuels, Cores, and Maguire will take part. Other particulars will soon follow.

FABIAN SOCIETY.—A course of lectures on "COMMON OBJECTIONS TO SOCIALISM" will be given at Bloomsbury Hall, Hart Street, New Oxford Street, W.C., on Friday evenings at 8 o'clock.—Sept. 19th. I. That Socialism is contrary to Human Nature. "Professor Huxley and Natural Inequality," Sydney Olivier; "The Seven Deadly Sins," G. Bernard Shaw.

## SOCIALISM IN LONDON AND THE PROVINCES.

### STREATHAM.

THE never-to-be-forgotten revolutionary meetings in Streatham last year shows unmistakable signs of bearing fruit. The outspoken truths concerning the hideous commercial system and landlord robbery seems the only sort of talk that rouses enthusiasm and revives to fresh life and vigour the men whose lives are wellnigh wrecked in the rush for luxury and ease of the privileged classes. Except for the Liberal Club, bossed by a few of the snobocracy (lower middle class), and the Bee Hive Coffee Tavern (very little patronised by the worker), nothing of an educational character is carried on except our meetings in the open-air. They are well attended, very orderly, and very popular. The morning meetings are held for reorganising the Streatham Labour Union. At night the meetings are for revolutionary propaganda. Owing to difficulty of getting speakers, C. Smith has to do most of the revolutionary propaganda.

Since my last report the cause still goes marching on. Miss Lupton and Smith addressed a large audience on Sunday morning, August 17th. Miss Lupton's comparison of the lawyer's charges for useless work, while the workman was still the prey of the sweater, created a good impression. Throughout the meeting enthusiasm and order was maintained, and 1s. 10d. was collected for the union. Wimbledon was visited by three comrades, who spoke to a small but sympathetic audience on the Common, starting the meeting by singing the "Hymn of the Proletariat," and at the close was asked to sing it again, when it was received with waving of hats and cheers for the revolution. On Saturday, August 30, the Good Templars started opposition with their usual hypocritical canting psalm-singing and cold water, not proving sufficient to damp the longing of the worker here for economic freedom, a more lively meeting I never attended. Smith asked a question, but was not answered. Sunday 30th, Smith and Osbourne addressed a good audience at the Fountain; 5s. collected for fur-pullers. At night, at the Fountain, Smith, Osbourne, and Rees addressed a large audience, opened by Smith singing the "Proletariat." Osbourne spoke well, but on scientific Socialism, the salvation of society depending on the return of Socialist candidates to Parliament; Rees followed in the same strain. Now this was more than Smith could stand; like the last speakers he agreed that this present system was based upon the plunder of the worker in the interest of the idler; and as the future society must be work for all, with its results enjoyed by all, it was futile to imagine that the institutions and traditions of the old order must be brought into the new. The question of physical force was dealt with, and its necessity maintained, as it was used in the present to maintain the robbery and plunder in our midst. Our comrade was well received. *Commonweal* sold out; 2s. ½d. collected for fur-pullers, making 7s. ½d. for the day. S.

### LEICESTER.

Sunday, July 27, Mowbray spoke three times; good meetings; 14s. 4d. collected, and 8s. 10d. worth of literature sold. Bank Holiday Sunday, had Navy Hall for the first time; he likewise spoke three times. Hall's evening discourse was truly eloquent, and the audience was much impressed; 16s. 7d. collected, and 8s. 6d. worth of *Commonweal* and pamphlets sold. Tuesday following, Mowbray with us again, and stayed till the end of week. Thomas Purcell (of Derby), a Christian Socialist, occupied platform. On 24th, Joe Tanner, of Birmingham (S.D.F.), spoke three times. On 31st, H. Davis, of London (Anarchist), addressed us twice. Davis also met us at Exchange Buildings by our request for an exposition and discussion of Anarchist principles. Saturday, Sept. 6th, Harry Carless (of Walsall) spoke on the Old Cross, Belgrave Gate, and on Sunday, 7th, at our usual places. During July, we have opened up the new stations of the Old Cross, Belgrave, and Wigston. At the last place we have been interfered with by the police, accused of obstruction, and our names taken, but nothing more. Some wretch has been distributing our pernicious literature among the soldiery stationed four miles out from here, and their colonel has been in a devil of a sweat over it. We are propagating now five nights a week somewhere, town or village, but find that the towns gives the best result. It is the most open to attack. People in the rural districts feel isolated and almost hopeless; still, they would succumb if we only had more workers. Together with Nottingham comrades, and by aid of a Loughborough comrade, we have held weekly meetings in Loughborough, and have tried to destroy the belief of the workers there in political shams. On August 31st, Barclay spoke at the Secular Hall on "Socialism the Salvation of the People"; fair discussion. Comrade Clara Warner made her first real speech last Monday night. Have begun to criticise our critics in the press for the sake of ventilating our principles; good sale of literature at all our meetings. B.

COMMONWEAL.—Good meeting on Sunday at Union Street; speakers were Miss Lupton and Leggat; *Freedom* sold out and 3s. collected. In the evening at Mile End Waste, Leggat held a good meeting.

NORTH LONDON.—We have held good meetings at Ossulston Street, Regent's Park, and Liverpool Street; speakers were Cantwell, Nicoll, Edwards, and Miss Lupton. The attendance of the choir at Liverpool Street made the meeting a grand success, and brought seven or eight police and an inspector to see whether the "Rev" had broken out. We collected 2s. 9½d. at Regent's Park, and sold 5 quires of *Commonweal*.

ABERDEEN.—On Sunday evening comrade Leatham lectured to a large audience on "Massaniello and the Neapolitan Revolt of 1647." In the discussion, which turned chiefly on revolution and parliamentary methods, comrades Rennie, Duncan, W. Cooper, G. Cooper, McLean, Moir, Addie, and Paul Blottman (a Swiss comrade) took part. The usual open-air meetings were held on Thursday and Saturday, Rennie, W. Cooper, and Leatham being the speakers on both occasions.

GLASGOW.—We are still maintaining our out-door propaganda here, our Paisley Road Toll meeting on Sunday evenings being as well attended and as useful as ever. Owing to the loss of our comrade Joe Burgoyne, who has gone to Leeds, we are short of speakers—comrade Glasier having meanwhile to do all the oratory himself. We are anxiously hoping providence may send us an additional speaker or two.

LEEDS.—We held three splendid meetings on Sunday last. *Commonweal* sold out. In consequence of several letters on Socialism appearing in the local press, we had some good opposition, and at the afternoon meeting on Woodhouse Moor we got some hearty support from an old temperance orator, Mr. Campbell, who spoke after an enthusiastic retailer of teetotal heresies, who said that even were everybody converted to total abstinence, there would still be poverty and degradation consequent on the monopoly of the natural resources of the country. This testimony from such a source is highly encouraging, and it was noticed at the evening meeting that other teetotal lecturers also declared themselves "in the fashion." But we can only gain by this.—H. S.

MANCHESTER.—We have held three good meetings Sunday the 14th, addressed by Cores (of Leeds), Barton, Stockton, and Scott. Collections amounted to 7s. 8½d. *Commonweal* all sold out, besides a number of *Freedom*, 'Monopoly,' and 'Chicago Speeches.' In the evening, at Higher Chatham Street, we had another taste of police interference, which ended in the complete discomfiture of the guardians of Law-'n'-order.—A W.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT."

Truly, Kropotkin's articles, as Nicoll observes, constitute an able attack against the chimeric idea of Government associated with Revolution.

In the event, then, that all Socialists combine to bring about the Revolution, by persuading the people to take possession of all the resources of wealth, the great difficulty to deal with would be—How to prevent individuals from extorting power from the people.

Let us suppose that during the time in which that principle is borne in mind by the people, a Revolutionary Government contrives to arise by some means or another.

If this method be not the best, it would be important to be shown what could enable the people to attach a criminal character to the idea of somebody governing them, or what guarantee can be obtained against the formation of Governments?

But another view of the matter might be considered. May it not be that the abolition of poverty will involve the gradual extinction of all forms of Government? The essential idea of Anarchy is that all power should be kept within the bosom of the people, and never be delegated to either minorities or majorities.

PLATO DRACULI.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 24, GREAT QUEEN ST., LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.C.

The Offices of the Socialist League will be open for the sale of Commonweal and all other Socialist publications from 8.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday.

Propaganda Meeting.—A Propaganda Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 8.30 p.m., at 24, Great Queen Street.

"COMMONWEAL" GUARANTEE FUND.

Table with columns for names (H. R., P. Webb, R. T., J. Armsden, A Worker, J. C. Kenworthy, Ibbett), amounts (£ s. d.), and North London Branch (three weeks).

SPECIAL PROPAGANDA FUND.

F. C. S. S., 1s.; K. Launsbach, 9s. 8d.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Funds are urgently needed for special work in connection with Propaganda. These funds will be used at the discretion of the Propaganda Committee, and to prevent confusion all money must be sent to Secretary of Propaganda Committee, at 24, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., and will be acknowledged by him the 'Weal.

DEVIZES.—K. Roberts (Fabian) will lecture at the Liberal Club, on Thursday, September 25, on "The Basis of Socialism."

EXCURSION TO SHIRLEY HILLS will take place on Sunday, September 28th. Brakes will start from the Office at 10 a.m. All seats must be booked by 24th latest.

GLASGOW.—Arrangements are being made for a lecturing tour in the north of England and Scotland next month. Branch secretaries to communicate as early as possible with Coulon or here.

A Tonic Sol Fa Class meets every Thursday evening at 8 o'clock at Kelmscott House, Hammersmith; comrade J. Munday conductor. All members of the League are cordially invited to attend and assist.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

- Battersea.—All communications to E. Buteux, 45, Inwith Street, Battersea Park Road.
Commonweal Branch.—24 Great Queen Street, Holborn, W.C. Tuesdays, Singing Practice. Thursdays, Business meeting. Saturdays, Social Gathering.

PROVINCES.

- Aberdeen.—Organiser, J. Leatham, 7 Jamaica Street. Branch meets in Odd-fellows' Small Hall, Crooked Lane, on Sunday evenings at 6.30. Singing practice, etc., Mondays at 8 p.m.
Glasgow.—Members are invited to meet on Thursday and Sunday evenings, at 8 o'clock, in the Secretary's house, 250 Crown Street, S.S.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

SATURDAY 20.

- 8 ..... Bermondsey Square .....Kitz and Leggatt
8 ..... Euston Road—Ossulston Street .....Nicoll and Parker

SUNDAY 21.

- 11 ..... Commercial Road—Union Street.....Commonweal Branch
11 ..... Latimer Road Station .....North Kensington Branch
11.30..... Hammersmith Bridge .....Hammersmith Branch

MONDAY 22.

- 7.30..... Westminster Bridge Road—Pearman Street .....The Branch

THURSDAY 25.

- 7.30..... New Cut—Short Street.....Miss Lupton

FRIDAY 26.

- 8.15..... Hoxton Church .....Kitz, Blundell, and Mrs. Blundell

PROVINCES.

- Aberdeen.—Saturday: Castle Street, at 8 p.m.
Glasgow.—Sunday: Jail Square at 2 o'clock; Paisley Road at 5 o'clock.
Leeds.—Saturday: Woodhouse Moor, at 7.30 p.m. Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.

COSMOPOLITAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, Wharfedale Temperance Bar, 46 Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross.—Meets every Wednesday at 8.30 for discussion of social subjects. All enquiries concerning membership should be made to C. Grason, secretary.

**SOCIALIST LEAGUE PUBLICATIONS.**

**Leaflets.**

All pamphlets not published by the Socialist League will in future be charged to Branches and Allied Societies at the following rates:—1d. each, 1s. 6d. per quire of 26; 2d. each, 3s. ditto.

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- Virtue's at a discount,
- Truth is under par,
- Honesty's a scarcity
- Wealth is better far.
- Knavery's commendable,
- Cheating is no sin;
- He is the true philanthropist
- Who takes the stranger in.

But where, perchance, some honest kindly heart,  
While smiling at his fancies, still may say—  
"He acts no snarling, mean, or churlish part  
Who fain would laugh the follies of the world away."

TO SUCH HE DEDICATES HIS BOOK.

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**LA REVOLTE**

ORGANE COMMUNISTE-ANARCHISTE.

One Penny weekly; by post, 1½d.

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**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.**

THE Socialist League advocates International Revolutionary Socialism. That is to say the destruction of the present class society, which consists of one class who live by owning property and therefore *need not work*, and of another that has no property and therefore *must work* in order that they may live to keep the idlers by their labour. Revolutionary Socialism insists that this system of society, which is the modern form of slavery, should be changed to a system of Society which would give every man an opportunity of doing useful work, and not allow any man to live without so doing, which work could not be useful unless it were done for the whole body of workers instead of for do-nothing individuals. The result of this would be that livelihood would not be precarious nor labour burdensome. Labour would be employed in co-operation, and the struggle of man with man for bare subsistence would be supplanted by harmonious combination for the production of common wealth and the exchange of mutual services without the waste of labour or material.

Every man's needs would be satisfied from this common stock, but no man would be allowed to own anything which he could not use, and which consequently he must *abuse* by employing it as an instrument for forcing others to labour for him unpaid. Thus the land, the capital, machinery, and means of transit would cease to be private property, since they can only be *used* by the combination of labour to produce wealth.

Thus men would be *free* because they would no longer be dependent on idle property-owners for subsistence; thus they would be *brothers*, for the cause of strife, the struggle for subsistence at other people's expense, would have come to an end. Thus they would be *equal*, for if all men were doing useful work no man's labour could be dispensed with. Thus the motto of Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality, which is but an empty boast in a society that upholds the monopoly of the means of production, would at last be realised.

This Revolutionary Socialism must be International. The change which would put an end to the struggle between man and man, would destroy it also between nation and nation. One harmonious system of federation throughout the whole of civilisation would take the place of the old destructive rivalries. There would be no great centres breeding race hatred and commercial jealousy, but people would manage their own affairs in communities not too large to prevent all citizens from taking a part in the administration necessary for the conduct of life, so that party politics would come to an end.

Thus, while we abide by the old motto

**Liberty, Fraternity, Equality,**

we say that the existence of private property destroys Equality, and therefore under it there can be neither Liberty nor Fraternity.

We add to the first motto then this other one—

**FROM EACH ACCORDING TO HIS CAPACITY, TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS NEEDS.**

When this is realised there will be a genuine Society; until it is realised, Society is nothing but a band of robbers. We must add that this change can only be brought about by combination amongst the workers themselves, and must embrace the whole of Society. The new life cannot be *given* to the workers by a class higher than they, but must be *taken* by them by means of the abolition of classes and the reorganisation of Society.

COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

Printed in the Socialist League Printery, and published in the name and on behalf of the Socialist League, by FRANK KRZ, at 24 Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, London W.C.